



METROPOLITAN
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Agenda Item No. 2a

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
MINUTES
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2012

Adrienne J. Tissier, Chair
San Mateo County

Amy Rein Worth, Vice Chair
Cities of Contra Costa County

Tom Azunbrado
U.S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development

Tim Bates
Cities of Alameda County

David Campos
City and County of San Francisco

Dave Cortese
Santa Clara County

Bill Dodd
Napa County and Cities

Dorene M. Giacomini
U.S. Department of Transportation

Federal D. Glover
Contra Costa County

Mark Green
Association of Bay Area Governments

Scott Haggerty
Alameda County

Anne W. Halsted
San Francisco Bay Conservation
and Development Commission

Steve Kinsey
Marin County and Cities

Sam Liccardo
Cities of Santa Clara County

Jake Mackenzie
Sonoma County and Cities

Kevin Mullin
Cities of San Mateo County

Bijan Sartipi
State Business, Transportation
and Housing Agency

James P. Sperring
Solano County and Cities

Scott Wiener
San Francisco Mayor's Appointee

Steve Heminger
Executive Director

Ann Flemer
Deputy Executive Director, Policy

Andrew B. Fremier
Deputy Executive Director, Operations

ATTENDANCE

Chair Mackenzie convened the meeting at 10:51 a.m. Committee members present were: Green, Haggerty, Halsted, Liccardo, Vice Chair Mullin, and Sperring. Commissioners Tissier and Worth were present as ex-officio members of the Committee. Other Commissioners present as ad hoc non-voting members of the Committee were Commissioners Bates, Campos, Cortese, Dodd, and Wiener.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Upon motion of Commissioner Haggerty and second by Commissioner Sperring, the Committee unanimously approved consent calendar noting the typographical error made to Agenda Item 2c:

- Minutes of July 13, 2012;
- Fourth Quarter June 2012 (Unaudited) SAFE Financials; and
- Funding Agreement – Implement Ramp Metering on US 101 in San Mateo: San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) (\$350,000)

Condition of Highway Operations Equipment

Chair Mackenzie stated that in response to the Committee's concerns regarding message signing on freeways and the recent media coverage regarding the accuracy of these signs, staff will be presenting the Committee with an update on the condition of highway traffic sensors changeable message signs and recommended next steps for identifying any infrastructure problems.

Ms. Radiah Victor, MTC staff, presented the item to the Committee. She described the Bay Area's extensive inventory of highway infrastructure designed to enable the management and operation of our highways. She described the system as follows: the ramp metering systems and sensors help to maximize the effectiveness of the transportation system; cameras and sensors enable real-time monitoring that can reduce the impacts of highway construction and maintenance activities; cameras enhance detection, response, clearance and management of traffic incidents; and changeable message signs provide motorist information that assists travel decisions.

Ms. Victor also summarized the existing condition of this highway infrastructure and noted that MTC has built a parallel data collection system for 511's needs. The data from this system is used by Caltrans to calculate the travel times displayed on the changeable message signs. Ms. Victor noted that the ramp metering system is one of the highest performing highway operation systems and will continue to be implemented throughout

the region. Finally, she described the next steps with respect to this matter.

Commissioner Green stated that messages on the changeable message signs are often the cause of slowdowns, and it is very important to have accurate information displayed.

Commissioner Haggerty stated that this is one of the worst reports that he has seen as a MTC Commissioner in relationship to transportation infrastructure. Mr. Heminger stated that MTC has been a fairly passive investor and this report highlights these limits. He welcomed the Committee's suggestions and direction on how to move forward on some of these ideas. Commissioner Haggerty recommended that a task force and/or committee be appointed to further address this issue.

Commissioner Spring added that there needs to be an institutional focus on who manages this system and how they do it.

Commissioner Liccardo expressed his concerns regarding the failure rate of the cameras and how this information was reported to the media. Mr. Dan McElhinney, Chief Deputy District Director, Caltrans District 4, stated that some information was provided by Caltrans and he is not sure why the story does not reflect the correct numbers.

Commissioner Green expressed concerns regarding loop detection equipment. Mr. Heminger stated that the loops have never been good and are often disturbed in construction projects. Melanie Crotty, MTC's Director of Operations, stated that the detectors are used for performance monitoring, congestion reports, and corridor planning studies, so there is some real value in having this level of detail available. As part of the next steps, MTC will need to decide if this system should be fixed at its current level or whether it needs to move to newer technologies.

Commissioner Campos asked whether there are requirements from Caltrans when these kinds of transportation infrastructure investments are made. Mr. Heminger stated that MTC needs to do a better job across the board and not just with Caltrans. He added that MTC needs to be more systematic about looking at things on a life cycle basis by making sure investments are going to be followed up with good maintenance.

Mr. McElhinney presented the Committee with an update on Caltrans highway operations equipment.

Commissioner Mullin stated that this was a useful discussion and expressed his concerns regarding a related issue – the data used in commute models.

After discussion, Commissioner Tissier recommended that staff present the Committee with quarterly progress reports on the condition of highway operations equipment. Commissioner Mackenzie stated that he will meet with the Commission Chair and MTC staff to discuss the issue.

Procurement for FY 2014 Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Contracts

Ms. Stefanie Pow, MTC staff, briefed the Committee on the upcoming FSP procurement of tow contractors service commencing in July 2013.

Public Comment/Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Mackenzie adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The next meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for Friday, October 12, 2012, in Oakland, California.